

**Amendments to the Abstract**

Please **add** the following Abstract to this application.

-- A linearly expandable router ~~(100)~~ is comprised of first, second, third and fourth router components ~~(102, 104, 106 and 108)~~. First, second and third discrete links ~~(110, 112 and 114)~~ couple an input side of a routing engine ~~(128)~~ of the first router component (102) to an input side of a routing engine ~~(128)~~ of the second, third and fourth router components ~~(104, 106 and 108)~~. Similarly, fourth and fifth discrete links ~~(116 and 118)~~ couple the input side of the routing engine ~~(128)~~ for the second router component ~~(104)~~ to the input side of the routing engine ~~(128)~~ of the third and fourth router components ~~(106 and 108)~~, respectively. Finally, a sixth discrete link ~~(120)~~ couples the input side of the routing engine ~~(128)~~ for the third router component ~~(106)~~ to the input side of the router engine ~~(128)~~ for the fourth router component ~~(108)~~. --